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NEWS RELEASE

Hogs & Pigs
December 28, 2005

North Dakota Hog Inventory Down 7 Percent

North Dakota

The December 1 all hogs and pigs inventory, at 157,000 head, decreased 12,000 head from December 1, 2004 according to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office. This is the fourth lowest inventory level in the last one-hundred years. Only 2001, 2002 and 2003 levels were lower, at 154,000 head, 144,000 head, and 150,000 head, respectively. The December 1 inventory level had increased in each of the last two years.

The breeding herd totaled 31,000 head, up 2,000 head from December 1, 2004. The 2005 annual pig crop totaled 471,000, up 30,000 from last year. This is the largest pig crop since 2001's crop of 476,000. Average pigs per litter, at 9.42, set a new record high since recording began in 1924.

Market hogs totaled 126,000 head, down 14,000 from last year. Market hog inventory by weight group with respective changes from last year are as follows: 50,000 head weighing under 60 pounds, down 2 percent from last year; 30,000 head in the 60-119 pound range, down 12 percent; 23,000 head in the 120-179 pound range, down 18 percent; 23,000 head over 180 pounds, down 15 percent.

United States

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on December 1, 2005 was 61.2 million head. This was up slightly from December 1, 2004, but down 1 percent from September 1, 2005.

Breeding inventory, at 6.01 million head, was up 1 percent from last year and last quarter. Market hog inventory, at 55.2 million head, was up slightly from last year but down 1 percent from last quarter.

The September-November 2005 U.S. pig crop, at 26.1 million head, was up 1 percent from 2004 and up 2 percent from 2003. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.89 million head, unchanged from last year. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 48 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the September-November 2005 period, compared to 8.96 last year.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.88 million sows farrow during the December 2005-February 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2005 and 2004. Intended farrowings for March-May 2006, at 2.89 million sows, are up slightly from 2005 and up 1 percent from 2004.

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**Hogs and Pigs: Inventory, Sows Farrowing, Pig Crop and Pigs Per Litter
North Dakota and United States, December 1, 2004-2005**

Item	North Dakota		United States	
	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
All Hogs and Pigs	169	157	60,975	61,197
Breeding	29	31	5,969	6,011
Market	140	126	55,005	55,186
Under 60 Pounds	51	50	19,980	19,955
60-119 Pounds	34	30	13,439	13,552
120-179 Pounds	28	23	11,186	11,266
180 Pounds and Over	27	23	10,401	10,414
Sows Farrowing				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	48	50	11,498	11,504
Pig Crop				
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	441	471	102,780	103,685
Pigs Per Litter	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>	<i>Head</i>
Dec-Nov ^{1/}	9.19	9.42	8.94	9.01

^{1/} December preceding year.

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